

## SUPERVISORS JOIN COUNTY STAFF ON ECOTOURS

In October and November of this year, County Supervisors Greg Cox, Pam Slater, Bill Horn and Darren Gretler, Legislative Advisor to Supervisor Dianne Jacob, joined Land Use and Environment Group Manager, Robert Copper and members of the MSCP team on eco-tours of some of the County's MSCP preserve areas. The tours also included stops at properties recently acquired that will contribute to the future East County MSCP Subarea.

John de Kerguelen of the Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation detailed the outreach efforts of the Volcan Conservancy Foundation. Paul Kucharczyk, Environmental Education Coordinator for the Department of Parks and Recreation, showed off a Red-tailed hawk and Great horned owl. Looking over the Volcan Mountain trailhead, Supervisor Horn commented on how proud he is of the County's efforts to provide recreational opportunities to our citizens.



*Supervisor Horn (center) and Darren Gretler (left) with Yolaine Stout of the Back Country Land Trust at Wright's Field*

Traveling eastward on Highway 8 they passed the 2,400-acre Crestridge Reserve, acquired by the State in 1999. The first stop was Wrights Field in Alpine, which included a presentation about the significance of preserving the land by Yolaine Stout and Noelle Collins of the Back Country Land Trust. From there, the group visited Paso Picacho in

Cuyamaca State Park, continuing past the newly acquired Lucky 5 property, through Julian to Volcan Mountain. At Volcan Mountain, Glenn Russell of the Department of Planning and Land Use pointed out several interesting archaeological features, including ancient rock walls, mortars, pestles and arrowheads.

After lunch, the group left Volcan Mountain and traveled past Edwards Ranch/Santa Ysabel Ranch, and the Ramona grasslands to the San Dieguito Valley. Dick Bobertz, Executive Director of the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Park Joint Powers Authority, met the group and gave an overview of the future plans for the river park and its desire to coordinate its efforts with the MSCP.



*Supervisor Slater dissects owl pellets atop Volcan Mountain*

"EcoTours provide an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of open space and habitat preservation," Supervisor Slater said. "Until you have traveled the backcountry and had the opportunity to see it first-hand you might never fully appreciate the legacy that we are leaving to our children and future generations to come."

**MSCP NEWS IS ONLINE!!** In an effort to reduce waste and promote environmental consciousness MSCP News is now available online! If you would rather visit our website at [www.mscp-sandiego.org](http://www.mscp-sandiego.org) instead of receiving a hardcopy of our newsletter, please contact Christine Chau at [Christine.Chau@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Christine.Chau@sdcounty.ca.gov) or (858) 694-3719 so that she can take you off our mailing list. If you would like to receive updates about the MSCP or would like to know when the latest edition of the newsletter is available please provide your email address.





## CONSERVING CALIFORNIA'S RICH BIODIVERSITY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

by Erin Klaesius, California Biodiversity Council

John Muir once said, "When we try to pick anything out by itself, we find it hitched to everything else." This is the very heart of the biodiversity concept. Literally meaning *the variety of life*, biodiversity implies that each individual species is valuable because it is essential to the health of the whole ecosystem. In practice, managing for biodiversity is valuable for maintaining the quality of life we enjoy now and want to sustain as our human population grows.

In 1991, the California Biodiversity Council (CBC) was formed to improve coordination and cooperation between the various resource management and environmental protection agencies at the federal, state, and local levels. The Council was not created to independently establish new projects or become another bureaucracy. Rather, its purpose is to discuss, coordinate, and assist in developing strategies and complementary policies for conserving biodiversity. Members exchange information, resolve conflicts, and promote development of local and regional conservation practices.

This October, ten years after the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement on Biological Diversity that established the CBC, 95 past and present members and staff of the Council met in Yosemite Valley to celebrate not only the foundations and accomplishments of the Council, but also the potential for future success.



Mihalic addresses group: CBC

This special tribute began at the site of the original Yosemite National Park Superintendent's residence at the confluence of the Merced River and Yosemite Creek. The current Park Superintendent, David Mihalic, introduced a discussion

of the social and cultural changes within the park, how they relate to California as a whole, and how the Biodiversity Council fits into this extraordinary picture. Mary Nichols, Secretary for Resources, spoke next about population and resource trends in California and the relevance of changing human trends and re-

sources programs to the future of the CBC.

Oren R. Lyons kindly gave an inspirational and reflective keynote speech to close the evening. Professor Lyons is a traditional Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan, and a Member of the Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs of the Haudenosaunee ("People of the Long House"). He is a Professor of American Studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Professor Lyons stated: "Biodiversity is a clinical, technical term for this intricate interweaving of life that sustains us. We, the Indigenous Peoples, say that we are related to this life; thus, your "resources" are our relations. It is all in how you look at it... we cannot abandon our responsibilities to our future generations."



Yosemite National Park; El Capitan: CBC

A wealth of information about the California Biodiversity Council is available on the web at <http://ceres.ca.gov/biodiversity>. There, you will find minutes from all Council meetings throughout the state as well as seven years of newsletter archives. This year the Council has prepared a special publication for its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Contact Erin Klaesius, Communications Coordinator, via e-mail at [erin\\_klaesius@fire.ca.gov](mailto:erin_klaesius@fire.ca.gov) or via standard mail at 1920 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 to get a copy of *Decade of Diversity*.







## MONITORING FOR RAPTORS – AN MSCP COMMITMENT

by Jeff Lincer, Wildlife Research Institute, Inc.

The Wildlife Research Institute, Inc. (WRI), sponsored by the California Department of Fish and Game, is developing a long-term monitoring program for the raptors addressed by San Diego County's MSCP.



*Bald eagle: Photo Courtesy of US Army Corps of Engineers*

The objectives of the biological monitoring plan for the MSCP include documenting the protection and changes in habitats and targeted species and evaluating the effectiveness of management and enforcement. Species selected as indicators of ecosystem function for this include those dependent on

coastal sage scrub, upland reptiles, and grassland-dependent raptors. Although the monitoring plan identifies only the Burrowing owl, Golden eagle, and Northern harrier for grassland monitoring, WRI's approach includes all of the raptors considered "covered" by the MSCP and so addresses also the Bald eagle, Cooper's hawk, Ferruginous hawk, Peregrine falcon, and Swainson's hawk (though the last is not known to have nested in San Diego County for 68 years). To date, no comprehensive study has been conducted on any of these species within the limits of the MSCP.

WRI's objectives are to...

- Determine, specifically, where these species are breeding and wintering in the MSCP area. For some, like Cooper's hawk, a sampling approach

rather than a comprehensive survey will be necessary;

- Wherever possible, document the breeding success;
- Characterize both successful and less successful or unsuccessful habitat;
- Identify, modify, or devise, if necessary, raptor-monitoring methods, based on scientific principles, appropriate to the objectives of the MSCP's monitoring plan; and
- Identify needs for management and research, and opportunities for enhancing the habitat or population.

Our approach to this challenge is to develop protocols for long-term monitoring of these species, documenting their population trends. Trends need to be identified as they emerge so that environmental management decisions can be made in time to make a difference. With input of many other professionals, we have identified approximately 40 potential management units (e.g., Torrey Pines State Park, Mission Trails Regional Park, Sweetwater National Wildlife Refuge, Border Field State Park, Rancho Jamul, etc.) and other locations that could serve as controls for a long-term raptor-monitoring program. Each is being examined for its monitoring potential, with an emphasis on which raptors are present during the breeding season and winter, the repeatability of surveys, personnel safety, and disturbance to the birds. These sites will be surveyed several times through 2001 and 2002, with a final report presented early in 2003.

## MSCP IN THE COMMUNITY

There have been several public outreach events during the past few months related to the MSCP.

On September 27, the Annual MSCP Workshop was jointly conducted by staff from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, the Cities of San Diego and Chula Vista and the County of San Diego. Each entity gave a presen-



tation on the acquisition, management and monitoring activities that took place during the year ending December 31, 2000. It was a very successful year in that 44% of the preserve planning area has been conserved in the three years since the MSCP has been adopted.

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On November 15 and 28, MSCP staff held workshops on the North County Plan in the communities of Escondido and Twin Oaks. Those in attendance were shown the award-winning video, ***Preserving San Diego's Best: San Diego County's Multiple Species Conservation Program***, to gain an understanding of the concept of the MSCP and why it was adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Tom Oberbauer, County MSCP staff, gave a presentation on the status of the North County Plan being prepared and reviewed by County staff, its consultants and a group of world-renowned independent scientific advisors. A substantial question and answer period fol-

lowed the presentation providing additional insight on the North County Plan and enabling residents to provide input on the process.

A Planning Commission workshop will be scheduled for sometime in March. Another round of workshops in the community will begin after the Planning Commission workshop to facilitate additional community involvement in creating the Plan.

**A North County Community Workshop in Ramona is scheduled for February 7, 2002 at the Ramona Community Center; 434 Aqua Lane, Ramona. We look forward to seeing you soon.**

## PROPOSITION 40 ON MARCH 2002 BALLOT



Proposition 40, the "California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002", will be on the March 2002 ballot. California voters have a history of supporting

bond acts providing funding for open space acquisition and the environment. In 1988, voters approved a bond act to buy lands within California Resource Conservation areas for parkland purposes. In March 2000, voters approved propositions 12 and 13 that included funding for acquisition of lands within the MSCP.

Proposition 40 includes \$2.6 billion to finance a program for the acquisition, development, restoration, protection, rehabilitation, stabilization, reconstruction, preservation, and interpretation of park, coastal, agri-

cultural land, air, and historical resources. The following is a breakdown of some funding sources included in Proposition 40:

- \$225 million to State Parks
- \$1.275 billion is included for Land, Air and Water Conservation purposes, including:
  - \$300 million is committed to the State Wildlife Conservation Board for grants for acquisition of open space.
  - \$200 million to the State Coastal Conservancy for coastal projects.
  - \$375 million is included for beaches and water quality and watershed programs.
  - \$75 million is included for agricultural preservation programs.
- \$267.5 million for Historical and Cultural Resources.

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